

REMARKS

In recent telephone conferences with Examiner Sandy, he commented on U.S. Patent No. 5,165,722 to Wong which was previously cited but not relied upon.

In all due respect, a review of the Wong patent shows it to be totally inapplicable to the present invention. Wong is specifically directed to a very flexible wire structure designed as a book leaf holder. It cannot be seen how the wire book leaf holder in any way teaches or remotely suggests the unique design of the present invention, i.e. a retainer clip for securing together a plurality of separate rings in a stack for handling for various procedures such as processing, shipping and use in attachment to other members.

In view of the above claim 1 has been amended again to include its original form reciting

"a plurality of said retainer clips adapted to be located in spaced relationship about said rings in a stack to secure said rings in the stack for handling,".

Certainly one skilled in the art of handling rings for processing, etc. would not see any relevance of the Wong patent. It is also of interest to note that while the Wong patent lists numerous patents in the References Cited and "Background Of The Invention" none of those relied upon in the present invention are cited.

It can be seen that claim 1 defines the retainer clip as having "a support section" at the lower end of the "connecting section" which receives the lower end of the stack of rings. The clip is further defined to have a "resilient clamp section" at the opposite upper end of the "connecting section". The "clamp section" has a "clamping segment with an open loop adapted to overlap the width and thickness of at least one of the

rings at the top of the stack". The "support section" has an open loop with a downwardly extending opening adapted to receive and overlap the width and thickness of at least one of the rings at the bottom of the stack.

In addition claim 1 notes that the resilient clamp section with its open loop section resiliently engages the upper end of the stack of rings "to retain them with pressure" against the open loop of the support section.

Wong shows nothing even close to such a structure. In Wong the arm or fingers 18 of the book leaf holder engage the sides of the book by flat engagement. There is no resilient end-to-end engagement of a member or stack of members between an open loop of a clamping segment and an open loop of a "support section". Clearly then there is no resilient, end-to-end engagement at all between the points 20 at the ends of the arms or fingers 18.

The amendments to the dependent claims as noted in the remarks in the Supplementary Response To Fourth Amendment have not been changed.

It is most respectfully submitted that it should be quite apparent that the Wong patent is not applicable to the present invention and cannot anticipate the noted claims nor would it in any way suggest the present invention and make it obvious.

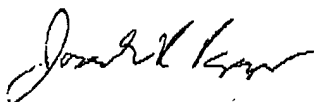
Thus, all of the claims should now be allowable and this application passed to issue.

Since the prior "SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE TO FOURTH AMENDMENT" was not formally submitted the amendments to the claims, except for Claim 1, have been maintained the same.

As noted in our telephone conference to expedite this matter, this SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE is being only FAXed to you at 571-273-7073. Also as noted I will be operating out of my home because of a back ailment and surgery on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 and I can be reached there at 248-644-3926.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and his favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JRP/cvjk